

U.S. DENIES AID BID TO CASTRO IN '59-'60

WASHINGTON, April 13 (AP) — A State Department spokesman said today that in 1959 and early 1960 the United States repeatedly tried to open talks with the Castro regime on "outstanding differences." But the United States did not offer aid, the spokesman said.

The comment was in response to questions about a published report that the United States tried to offer assistance to Cuba, but that Premier Fidel Castro turned instead to the Soviet Union.

The report arose out of the publication of an article by Theodore Draper, a writer on Cuban affairs, in today's issue of *The New Leader*, a magazine of news and opinion published

every two weeks. Mr. Draper has made studies for Harvard and Columbia Universities.

Robert J. McCloskey, State Department press officer, said that after Dr. Castro came to power the United States made use of various channels in Havana and Washington to demonstrate a willingness to resolve outstanding differences. He said that one of the differences involved seizures of American property in Cuba.

The efforts were made during 1959 and continued into early 1960, he said. They were frustrated, he went on, when Cuba insisted that as a precondition the legislative and executive branches of the United States Government adopt no measures considered prejudicial to, while the negotiations were in progress, but that Cuba be left free to continue actions prejudicial to the United States.